(d) what are the contents of the approval granted in favour of M/s. US West India and also the policy decision of the Department in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. Only a letter of intent has been issued to M/s US West India Ltd. for a pilot project.

(b) National Telecom Policy provides for setting up of Pilot Projects in order to assess New Technologies and management techniques. They are for a limited period only.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) In the letter of intent Government has expressed its willingness to grant a licence for a pilot project under the terms and conditions to be mutually agreed upon between DOT and M/s. US West India Ltd.

Criteria for awarding tenders for basic telephone services

1244. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria decided by the DOT for awarding tenders to be submitted by various prespective licences for basic telephone services;

(b) the weights given to individual criteria; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to aviod litigation as happened in the case of last tender for Mobile Cellular Services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The bidder has to comply with technical, commercial and financial conditions. In addition levy to be paid to Government, number of Direct Exchange Lines to be commissioned over a period of 12, 24 and 36 months, number of village public telephones to be provided as a percentage of Direct Exchange Lines, value of indigenous equipment to be used in the network for first three years and value of total equipment to be used in the network for first three years, will be the evaluation parameters.

(b) Weightage for parameters has not been announced.

(c) Government have tried to simplify the tender conditions.

Criteria for awarding bid for cellular mobile service

1245. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the maximum number of circles/service areas which one bidder company would/can be awarded or both the basic telephone services and cellular mobile services;

(b) the criteria for deciding the maximum number of circles to be awarded to a bidder company; and

(c) the basis for deciding/awarding specific circles, in case the bidder company is eligible/successful in bagging more than the maximum prescribed circles to be awarding to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No such limit is fixed.

(b) and (c) In order to ensure that monopoly conditions do not develop, Government may restrict the maximum number of circles and decide on the circles to be awarded to one bidder, based upon bidders total networth and bidders preference.

नए टेलीफोन कनेक्शनों हेतु लक्ष्य

1246. **श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :**
श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने वर्ष 1994-95 के दौरान नये टेलीफोन कनेक्शन जारी करने की संख्या का कोई लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया था;